



Human Rights Video and Photography Contest

Jan 11, 2011

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



2012 HUMAN RIGHTS Video and Photography CONTEST

THE
FALL
OF THE
BERLIN
WALL



"Sometimes people forget today how many could not leave (the country) for years, how many sat in prisons... before the joy of freedom came, many people suffered." — German Chancellor Angela Merkel

2012 Topic: "Breaking Down Barriers"

Columbus Human Rights Commission

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2012 Human Rights Commission Topic: "Breaking Down Barriers"

VIDEO and PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST TOPIC:

BACKGROUND: On August 13, 1961, in the dead of night, the Berlin Wall was erected to keep East Germany from fleeing to the West. The Berlin Wall was a physical division between West Berlin and East Germany. The wall stood for 28 years, until November 9, 1989. The destruction of the wall was nearly as instantaneous as its creation, its fall was celebrated around the world. During its existence, the Berlin Wall stretched over a hundred miles. It ran not only through the center of Berlin, but also wrapped around West Berlin, entirely cutting West Berlin off from the rest of East Germany. The wall was a **SYMBOLIC** boundary between democracy and communism during the Cold War. The wall stood as a barrier, a barrier of many different sorts.

A **barrier** is anything that restrains or obstructs progress, access. The Berlin wall was a barrier to progress for the people of East Germany. Throughout history, there are heroes who tore down barriers whether they were built by others or their own personal barriers that they learned to overcome. From Gandhi, and his non-violent movement which broke down the barriers to independence for India to Helen Keller who overcame her barrier of being blind and deaf which lead her to becoming the first blind/deaf person to graduate from college and earn a bachelor's degree. Barriers come in all shapes and sizes, and we want to celebrate those who were able to tear them down.

Criteria:

Your video and photography should reflect a time in history when barriers were broken down. The media should show the difficult choice each of us must make not to be a bystander, but instead break down barriers and stand up for someone who is mistreated. Your focus may be historical event (e.g. The tearing down of the Berlin Wall), or from your own experiences in your school or neighborhood, or a contemporary human rights situation that you research which convey barriers that have been broken (e.g., Libya). It can reflect any of the following (your choice):

- a. The difficult choice to break down barriers; or
- b. Your thoughts on what **YOU** can do to break down barriers; or
- c. Recognition of someone you know or someone from history who you would honor at your school or neighborhood.

The multi-media will be judged for students' recognition of key human rights values and for responses, which include creativity, artistic expression and specificity in relating to the topic. You also will be grading on originality and your editing skills (video only).

Photography

Requirements:

- Photography can be displayed in a number of ways, through a slideshow, portfolio, Collage, or scrapbook. If you want to display your photographs in a different but creative way, please contact the Art and Essay Program Director, Hrc.Columbus@gmail.com , to be sure it's acceptable.
- All photographs must be original, unless you are using images of National or Historical Figures
- No Minimum number of photographs
- Maximum of photographs of 15, unless the photographs are displayed in collage form
- Collage may be computer generated

Video

Requirements:

- The Video must be a minimum of 1 minute, with the maximum of 5 minutes.
- Must be the student's original work.
- There are two ways the student can create the video.
 - The student must either be the focal point of the video, or
 - The student must be the director of the video.
 - On the registration form, make note whether you are the focal point of the video or are the director of the video.
- Animation is allowed under this category

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

2012 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION Video and Photography

1. ENTRY FORM: Please make sure that each student has a fully completed entry form attached to their media and that their name appears **ONLY** on the entry form and **NOT** on their media. The information on the entry form is necessary for us to contact contest winners. **The entry form is at the end of THIS packet**

2. DEADLINE: Monday, Feb. 27th, 2012

3. JUDGING & AWARDS: A panel of community members will judge the video and photography on Monday, March 19th, 2012. Essays and artwork will be assigned numbers so judges will not know the identity of the students.

Video and Photography winners, their teacher, and their school will be notified in the days following the judging. Winners will receive a \$100 savings bond, a collection of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s essays, and complimentary tickets (for the student, his/her parents, and his/her teacher) to the Commission's Annual Dinner on April 19th, 2012, where the student will be recognized. Winning video or photography will be published on the Commission's website, annual report, and submitted to local newspapers. Winners will receive further information about the dinner.

If you have further questions or need other assistance, please call Lorraine Smith, Director or Frances L. Jordan, Deputy Director, # 376-2532 or humanrights@columbus.in.gov

**YOU MAY, IF YOU WISH, USE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO YOU IN
THE "VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST TOOL BOX" TO ASSIST
YOU IN CREATING YOUR MASTERPIECE!**

VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST TOOL BOX



*Photograph of the Berlin Wall dividing East and West Berlin.
Note the graffiti on the western side of the wall and the no
man's land on the eastern side. (Photo from [Gustavus
Adolphus College](#), [Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library](#))*

Definitions:

Bias: An unfair act or policy stemming from prejudice

Bullying: when someone hurts or scares another person on purpose. The person being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself. Usually, bullying happens over and over. It can include repeated pushing, shoving, hitting, and spitting, as well as name calling, picking on, making fun of, laughing at, excluding someone, spreading rumors, and sending nasty emails and notes.

Bystander: a non-participant spectator; a person near an event who chooses to remain uninvolved; a term also used to refer to people who refused to speak out against hate crimes, discrimination of any injustice.

Collaborator Any person or organization who shares expertise, facilities, equipment, or financial support; someone who assists; an associate who works with others toward a common goal.

Civil disobedience: Deliberate, open, and peaceful violation of particular laws, decrees, regulations, military or police orders, or other governmental directives; the deliberate breaking of a law in order to draw public attention and debate to a cause or issue. Civil rights activists working with Rev. Martin Luther King often used this approach to challenge segregation. King defended such actions as justified, provided that those challenging the law do so “lovingly” and with a willingness to accept the penalty.

Cold War: Intense economic, political, military, and ideological rivalry between nations, short of military conflict; sustained hostile political policies and an atmosphere of strain between opposed countries. The freedom of movement was withheld from the citizens and their freedoms and rights were constrained. The Cold War was the continuing state from roughly 1946 to 1991 of political conflict, military tension, proxy wars, and economic competition between the Communist World—primarily the Soviet Union and its satellite states and allies—and the powers of the Western world, primarily the United States and its allies.

Communism: A theory or system of social organization based on the holding of all property in common, actual ownership being ascribed to the community as a whole or to the state.

Dehumanization: To deprive of human qualities or attributes; divest of individuality.

Diversity: Group differences (such as race, sex, color, national origin, religion, disability, etc.)

Genocide: deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, cultural, or religious group.

Harassment: Bullying someone about specific things-- race/color, gender, religion, national origin, and disability is harassment. Harassment is a subset of bullying. Harassment is against the law (even when you are a grownup). Harassment is against the school's policies and your school will investigate if you are harassed! You should talk to your teacher or your principal.

Hero: a person distinguished by exceptional courage; someone who fights for a cause, despite feeling fear.

Hostile environment: a legal term describing the work or school atmosphere that can be created by harassment. Hostile environment can be created by:

- unwelcome sexual advances, other verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature or slurs or mistreatment based on race, religion, national origin, color, disability, and sex) by another student
- Must be either:
 - severe (can be only one time) or
 - happen over and over (persistent and pervasive)
- Affects student's education or activities so much so that no reasonable student would want to go to school or participate in that activity

Honor: show respect towards; bestow a reward upon; to express admiration, respect or esteem toward another person .

Martyr: one who suffers for the sake of principle; one who voluntarily suffers death as the penalty for refusing to renounce their religion.

Paradigm Shift: A radical change in underlying beliefs or theory.

Rescuer: a person who rescues you from harm or danger; someone who saves something from danger or violence.

Service: An act of assistance or benefit to another or others.

Social justice: The act of improving a situation or correcting a wrong or a social problem.

Relevant Quotes You May Consider:

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Many well-known writers, politicians and social activists have expressed thoughts on the link between standing up for or defending others, justice, and human rights. You may if you choose examine the following quotes as a tool to write your essay:

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." –**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

"There are no constraints on the human mind, no walls around the human spirit, no barriers to our progress except those we ourselves erect."

Ronald Reagan

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college she attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."--**Eleanor Roosevelt**

"In Germany, the Nazis first came for the communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Catholic. Then they came for me -- and by that time there was nobody left to speak up." --**Pastor Martin**

Niemöller

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."--**Edmund Burke**

Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.

John F. Kennedy

"A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

Jackie Robinson

“How true Daddy's words were when he said: ‘all children must look after their own upbringing. Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands.’”--

Anne Frank

“They say the world has become too complex for simple answers. They are wrong. There are no easy answers, but there are simple answers. We must have the courage to do what we know is morally right.”—**Ronald Reagan**

“...*agape* [ä-gä-pā] means ‘a profound concern for the welfare of another without any desire to control that other, to be thanked by that other, or to enjoy the process.’ Not easy. But if we can follow it, it will mean that we will never exclude [anyone].”---**Madeleine L'Engle, in A Circle of Quiet**

“I seldom think of my limitations, and they never make me sad. Perhaps there is just a touch of yearning at times; but it is vague, like a breeze among flowers.” – **Helen Keller**

"Great spirits have often encountered violent opposition from weak minds." – **Albert Einstein**

“Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.” - **Maya Angelou**

“There must be no barriers for freedom of inquiry. There is no place for dogma in science. The scientist is free, and must be free to ask any question, to doubt any assertion, to seek for any evidence, to correct any errors.” **J Robert Oppenheimer**

In a speech at the [Brandenburg Gate](#) commemorating the 750th anniversary of Berlin^[66] on 12 June 1987, **Ronald Reagan** challenged [Mikhail Gorbachev](#), then the [General Secretary](#) of the [Communist Party](#) of the [Soviet Union](#), to tear down the wall as a symbol of increasing freedom in the [Eastern Bloc](#):

“We welcome change and openness; for we believe that freedom and security go together, that the advance of human liberty can only strengthen the cause of world peace. There is one sign the Soviets can make that would be unmistakable, that would advance dramatically the cause of freedom and peace. General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek [peace](#), if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, if you seek [liberalization](#), come here to this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”

Online Resources:

The Rise and Fall of the Berlin Wall-

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/coldwa1/a/berlinwall.htm>

Berlin Wall Online- <http://www.dailysoft.com/berlinwall/>

BBC: History of Mohandas Gandhi-

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/gandhi_mohandas.shtml

Jackie Robinson: Breaking the Color Barrier-

<http://www.america.gov/st/diversity-english/2008/December/20090106142542jmnamdeirf0.8552515.html>

PBS: Rise and Fall of Jim Crow-

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/index.html>

Top Ten People who Overcame their Disabilities-

<http://www.toptenz.net/10-people-who-overcame-their-disabilities.php>

Barrier Breakers: Definition of Discrimination-

<http://www.barrierbreakers.com/blog/definition-of-discrimination>

Teaching Tolerance

<http://www.tolerance.org>

Videos:

Lifting Up a Voice: Paving A Path To Justice In Columbus-

<http://www.columbus.in.gov/human-rights/video/video-lifting-up-a-voice/>

BB Moments: Breaking Barriers-

http://mlb.mlb.com/video/play.jsp?content_id=3328380

"BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS"

VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

2012 CONTEST DIVISION: _____ HIGH SCHOOL

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PLEASE PRINT NEATLY, FILLING IN ALL BLANKS.

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS: _____
(Street) (City) (Zip)

PARENT DAYTIME PHONE#: () _____ (required)

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S NAME: _____

NAME OF SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION: _____ **Grade:** _____

NAME OF STUDENT'S TEACHER: _____ (required)

Photography ☐ Video ☐ [Focal Point _____ or Director _____]
First Name Last Name

.....
THIS FORM MUST BE ATTACHED TO ENTRIES. IT MAY BE DUPLICATED AS
NEEDED

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON YOUR ENTRY!

"BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS"

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